

The regular session meeting of the Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists was held on September 20, 2018, in Room 110 of the MDH Metro Executive Building, 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Mertes called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Present for the quorum were Dr. Stacey Samuels Cole via conference call, Mr. John Cummins, Dr. Tinita Kearney, Dr. Tam Nhu Nguyen, Dr. Carrie Nieman, Dr. Candace Robinson, Mr. John Rouse, Mr. Sheckells, Ms. Ellen Stein and Ms. Carolyn Stine.

Staff Present

Christopher Kelter, Executive Director
Carla Boyd, AAG, Board Counsel
Lillian Reese, Legislation Specialist
Zoann Mouzone, Administrative Specialist III

Absent Members

Ms. Jillian DeLuca
Mr. Kim Keller

Visitors

Kim Lang, Director of Health Occupations Boards and Commissions
Deb Donohue, Deputy Counsel, Office of the Attorney General
Linda Beyer, Fiscal Officer
Billie Jo O'Donovan, Hearing Aid Dispenser

Agenda Review and Approval for September 2018

Dr. Kearney made a motion to approve the agenda with amendments. Mr. Sheckells seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes Review and Approval for August 2018

Dr. Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Presentation

Linda Beyer, Fiscal Officer for the boards and commissions, informed the Board that the budget is in good condition. Dr. Mertes inquired about purchasing a sound system for the Board meetings. Mr. Kelter will research the type and cost of the sound system and submit the information to Ms. Beyer. Ms. Beyer will contact various vendors and inquire about a sound system that will fit the Boards' needs. Dr. Mertes also inquired about purchasing DropBox, a system where Board members can receive documents electronically. Ms. Vallone gave the Board an example of how DropBox works. Ms. Beyer will also research how other are sending documents electronically. Ms. Beyer informed the Board that Board members can receive the yearly budget starting July 1 from the Executive Director when it is available.

Regulatory Review

Dr. Mertes invited other Board members to join the committees.

Establishment of Legislative Committee

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the first document has been sent out in reference to telehealth and that he's working on the document and notes for the SLP-A regulations. Mr. Kelter informed the Board that a date and time for meeting needs to be scheduled.

Obtaining Stakeholder Input

Dr. Mertes inquired whether there are any other areas that the stakeholders would like to be addressed in addition to telehealth and SLP-A.

Executive Director Report

MDH Secretary Meeting with Board Chairs and Executive Directors

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that on September 4, 2018 Secretary Neall met with Board Chairs and Directors. Dr. Mertes gave a brief summary of the meeting. The Department's Information Technology unit is looking into software for renewals and tracking of continuing education activities.

New Board Member Orientation – October 15, 2018 at UMBC Tech Center

Ms. Lang informed the Board that the orientation is for the new Board members. Anyone interested in attending the orientation were encouraged to contact Mr. Kelter. Ms. Lang spoke in reference to the budget presentation and informed the Board that there are other individuals that reviews and approves the credit card spending and budget.

OHCQ – Open House: IT and Process Improvement – August 20, 2018

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the Open House was very interesting and was for organizations of a larger scale. Mr. Kelter gave a brief summary of the event noting that SmartSheet may be a tool that smaller boards could use.

Electronic Transcripts

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he will continue to check into the process of the Board receiving electronic transcripts for applications.

Howard County Public Schools Presentation – December 20, 2018

Mr. Kelter will be attending the presentation.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Cummins reported for the Board for the month of September, 2018 the budget is \$385,448.00, the expenditures are 52,467.00, and has available funds in the amount of \$332,981.00.

Chair Report – Dr. Jennifer Mertes, Au.D.

Executive Committee Development

Dr. Mertes informed the Board that the Board's Assistant Chair and Secretary position needs to be filled. Dr. Mertes also spoke on making sure that the Board open session meeting minutes are uploaded onto the Board's website as soon as possible.

Accessibility

The amplification system was discussed during the budget presentation.

The following lists indicate those who are interested in being on the Boards' committees:

Licensing – Dr. Kearney, Mr. Sheckells and Mr. Rouse

Disciplinary/Complaints – Ms. DeLuca, Dr. Cole and Ms. Stein

Legislative – Mr. Cummins and Dr. Robinson

Board Member Training – Dr. Mertes, Ms. DeLuca, Mr. Keller and Ms. Stein

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that he had spoken with Attorney Boyd regarding signatures on the Board Meeting minutes. The Board has used signatures on its meeting minutes since 1983. Mr. Kelter reported that there's no language in the Board's statute and regulations that require Board Chair signatures on the meeting minutes. A discussion arose with the Board. The Board agreed not to have the Board's Chair signature on the minutes.

SLP-A Applicant – Qualifications via Allied Health Degree

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that an applicant for a limited license as a speech-language pathology assistant does not have a degree in communication disorders or speech-language pathology, but that the applicant received a Bachelor's in Psychology in May 2016. The applicant has completed the five core classes that met the allied health degree requirements in the Board's regulations. Attorney Board informed the Board that Section 42USC 295P of the Health Act Law indicates that psychology is an allied health profession. A discussion arose with the Board. Dr. Kearney made a motion to issue an SLP-A limited license to the applicant. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion.

FYI

Mr. Kelter informed the Board that the Food and Drug Administration sent out a notice that the over-the-counter hearing aid category does not yet exist.

Adjournment

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Mr. Cummins made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Board meeting. Ms. Stein seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The regular session meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.